REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action

dated July 27, 2006. Claims 1, 4 to 8, 11 to 15 and 18 to 21 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 8 and 15, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration

and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 to 7, 15 and 18 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. The amendments to Claims 1 and 15 are seen

to attend to this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal are therefore respectfully

requested.

Claims 1, 4 to 8, 11 to 15 and 18 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,891,632 (Schwartz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,425

(Sampath). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns performing print processing in an

operation mode which is automatically determined from among a plurality of operation

modes in response to a print request from an application program. Evaluation information

is set indicating whether or not the operation mode is to be evaluated after printing. Print

data is generated in an intermediate condition and temporarily stored, wherein the

generation of print data is responsive to the print request from the application program, and

wherein the intermediate condition is independent of a particular page description

language. The temporarily stored generated print data is analyzed, and the operation mode

is determined from among the plurality of operation modes based on a selection criterion

and based on the analysis of the print data. The temporarily stored generated print data is

processed in accordance with the determined operation mode. An evaluation screen is

- 10 -

displayed for querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing, after the print processing of the print data is finished, in a case where the set evaluation information indicates that the operation mode is to be evaluated. An evaluation result input by a user is acquired via the displayed evaluation screen. The selection criterion is updated for determining the operation mode based on the acquired evaluation result so as to effect a next determination of the operation mode.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 are respectively directed to a method, an apparatus and a program.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) setting evaluation information indicating whether or not an operation mode is to be evaluated after printing, (ii) displaying an evaluation screen for querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing, after the print processing of the print data is finished, in a case where the set evaluation information indicates that the operation mode is to be evaluated, (iii) acquiring an evaluation result input by a user via the displayed evaluation screen, (iv) updating selection criterion for determining the operation mode based on the acquired evaluation result so as to effect a next determination of the operation mode. The applied references of Schwartz and Sampath are not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

The Office Action acknowledges that Schwartz does not disclose foregoing features (i) to (iii). However, in the Office Action's arguments in support of patentability, the Office Action cites to column 6, lines 33 to 50, column 7, lines 39 to 49 and column 8, lines 1 to 20 of Sampath for this alleged disclosure. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

- 11 -

The cited portions of Sampath are seen to disclose that a diagnostic controller decides, based on an initial diagnosis, what test prints are to be scanned and what image quality parameters are to be determined and/or what defects are to be recognized and characterized. In addition, input may be obtained via a user interface 210 or 220, for characterizing the defects observed either in the test prints, or in the customer prints. This additional input from the user can be used to augment and/or verify the results of the image quality analysis module.

As such, Sampath is seen to disclose that image quality parameters are determined and that defects are recognized and characterized. However, nothing in Sambath is seen to disclose or suggest querying evaluation of a printing speed, muchless that such a query is displayed on an evaluation screen after print processing of print data is finished, in a case where set evaluation information indicates that an operation mode is to be evaluated.

Accordingly, even if Schwartz and Sampath are combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action (assuming for argument's sake that such combination would be permissible), the result would not teach at least the features of (i) setting evaluation information indicating whether or not an operation mode is to be evaluated after printing, (ii) displaying an evaluation screen for querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing, after the print processing of the print data is finished, in a case where the set evaluation information indicates that the operation mode is to be evaluated, (iii) acquiring an evaluation result input by a user via the displayed evaluation screen, (iv) updating selection criterion for determining the operation mode based on the acquired evaluation result so as to effect a next determination of the operation mode.

- 12 -

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.
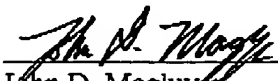
The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Finally, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner conduct a personal or telephonic interview with Applicant's representative regarding this case, before the Examiner takes this filing into consideration. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative as indicated below.

- 13 -

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to

our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 14 -